

A
SPEECH

made by

Master Smith

In the Lower House of
Parliament on *Wednesday*
th 29th. of *December*.
1641.

Concerning the late tumultuous
Assemblies about the
Parliament House.



London, Printed for *Tho. Bankes*. 1641.

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Master Speaker,



He businesse we have now in Agitation concerning the *Irish* Affaires, and the treaty with the *Scottish* Commissioners for their timely assistance of ayde (being to bee determined this day) is of great consequence and weight, even of such importance that I have not read of greater when the greatest troubles were in that Kingdome in *Queene Elizabeth* her raigne of good memory, these troubles with them being comparatively Similized is offarre greater danger: And I would to God we might so agree with the Lords, that a speedy conference might bee with the *Scotts*, towards their reliefe in *Ireland*.

Yet notwithstanding (*Master Speaker*) the greatnesse of this Rebellion, and most outrageous cruelties committed daily by the Rebell. hazzarding neerely the losse of that Kingdome

without speedy helpe (which takes up all our debates and Arguments) if we remove not therewithall such impediment hereat home as doe hinder our speedy proceedings, not only in that businesse, but in the settling of the Peace and quiet of this Kingdome, all our endeavours in the suppressing the Rebells in *Ireland* will little availe.

Master Speaker, Vnder favour of this honorable Assembly I intend to give you a touch of such Letts which doe much hinder as I conceive in expediting the great affaires of Church and State, and our proceeding against such as are incendiaries and delinquents in the same.

We have daily you know *Master Speaker*) received Petitions from the Cities of *London*, some of them having beene delivered by good hands, and men of good worth and quality, which wee have willingly taken, and I doubt not but wee shall in due time give them good satisfaction in answering them.

Likewise wee have received Petitions from abrupt and disordered persons without any matter that might deserve our consideration, but are more fitter to be rejected (as I under favour conceive) then received.

But *Master Speaker*, that which I intend intimate to you as the greatest stoppe in our proceedings is the riotous and tumultuous Assemblies of vaine and idle persons, who presume to begirt our house not onely in an Irregular manner to preferre their Petitions but
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(3)

with open clamours, would prescribe us what Lawes to make, and what not, and what persons to prosecute and who not.

These Tumultuous persons Master Speaker takes up a great deale of our Precious time in answering and appeasing of them when as I conceive other businesse, more neerely concerning the welfarre and security of his sacred Maiesty and his Kingdomes lyes even as it were gasping and ready to perish, for want of our timely Assistance.

Master Speaker our patience I perswade my selfe, is one of the greatest causes that amniates and encourages these illegall entrages, and if some rebukes were ministred from the House to them, they would not surely be so Audacious.

It is true Master Speaker, I confesse it, that their trading is decayed, and hard for them (many of them) to subsist with their vanities, by reason of the slow proceeding against delinquents, the reason whereof they are unable off, neither as I conceive should they be made acquainted therewith, otherwise then to understand that there incensonable, and unfitting repaire to the House, is one Principall cause thereof.

Therefore Sir I conceive if some speedy course were taken for the suppressing these tumults by a strict guard about the House, with a command not onely by perswasions to Avert

their resort hither, But to shoote at them if they obstinately refuse to be perswaded; It will be the best and speediest meanes to repell them.

Likewise that in the City of *London* and *Surburbes*, by trusty Officers appointed by the House for that service, dilligently search may be made for Papists and recusants, to apprehend them if they finde them armed with any weapons, and bring them before a Committee for examination appointed for that purpose.

For Master Speaker the Papists resorts aswell as others; hither to severall places, as I am enforced which as these tumultuous persons pretend is one great cause of their meeting here, which if they perceive they be prosecuted according to the Lawes of this Kingdome in that case evacted they conceive they shall have lesse cause to trouble us.

And truly Sir may I speak my minde really, herein I perswade my selfe that unlesse the Lawes be put in execution with severity against some of the greatest recusants, to make them exemplary to the rest, and that with speed, neither this Citty nor other places can be secure from their divelish practises and plots, and that our too favourable proceeding against them, if so continues, may prove our late repentance, if any of their perverse and wicked Stratagems should take effect, which God forbid I heartily wish, and that such course may be taken by the blessing of the

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the Almighty on our endeavours, that for ever
all the inhabitants of his Majesties king-
domes that are true Christians and
loyall subjects, may lye down
in peace, and rise in safety
to which I shall
alwayes say,
Amen.

FINIS.
